

Message Text

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47

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 L-03 OC-06 CCO-00 OCL-00 OMB-01

TRSE-00 PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20 RSC-01 A-01 FBO-01

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 CU-04 HEW-08 SCI-06 DRC-01

/118 W

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R 181449Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9593

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

CNO WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 6966

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR MASS ET US

SUBJ: KAGNEW PHASE-DOWN - DISPOSITION OF TRACT E

REFS: (A) ASMARA 487 (B) STATE 127899 (C) ADDIS 6747

1. ON JUNE 17 ACTING MININTERIOR APPOINTED WORKU HABTE-WOLD OF HIS MINISTRY TO REPLACE ZEGEYE ABERU AS ETHIOPIAN COORDINATOR FOR KAGNEW PHASE-DOWN MATTERS. IN LENGTHY JUNE 18 MEETING, EMBOFF BRIEFED WORKU ON BACKGROUND AND IMMEDIATE DECISIONS REQUIRED CONCERNING KAGNEW PHASE-DOWN. WORKU, WHO NOT PREVIOUSLY INVOLVED KAGNEW ISSUES, EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS MOVE RAPIDLY ON QUESTION OF IEG DESIGNEE FOR TRACT E.

2. EMBOFF POINTED OUT THAT AID AND MAAG WERE CURRENTLY REVIEWING INVENTORY OF TRACT E MOVEABLE PROPERTIES FOR POSSIBLE DONATION WITHIN ETHIOPIA AND THAT REMAINDER WOULD BE PROCESSED BY PDO. EMBOFF STRESSED ADVANTAGES OF EARLY DECISION ON TRACT E RECIPIENT. HE ALSO POINTED OUT NEED FOR IMMEDIATE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN US CONTRACTOR AND TRACTS A AND E RECIPIENTS RE WATER AND POWER SUPPLY. EMBOFF FURTHER URGED WORKU IMPROVE COORDINATION AND CLARIFICATION OF RESPONSIBILITIES WITH ASMARA WORKING GROUP.

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3. WHILE UNDERSTANDING URGENCY ABOVE MATTERS, WORKU EXPLAINED DECISION ON TRACT E LIKELY BE DIFFICULT AND TAKE TIME CONSUMING. ALTHOUGH HE PREFERRED TRACT E BE CONVERTED TO CIVILIAN PURPOSES SO THAT ERITREAN PEOPLE WOULD BENEFIT, HE POINTED OUT THAT IN THESE DAYS OF BUDGETARY CONSTRAINTS SECURITY FORCES ARE PROBABLY IN STRONG-EST POSITION, FINANCIAL AND OTHERWISE, TO CLAIM AND USE TRACT E FACILITIES. HE MENTIONED THAT ERITREA POLICE MAY WISH TAKE OVER HOSPITAL.

4. HE ASKED THAT USG KEEP IN MIND THAT WHOEVER RECEIVES TRACT E WILL HAVE CERTAIN BASIC REQUIREMENTS FOR FURNISHINGS AND EQUIPMENT AND THAT BUILDINGS SHOULD THEREFORE NOT BE STRIPPED. HE ALSO WONDERED IF RETURN/TRANSFER TRACT E AND BUILDINGS COULD BE DELAYED BEYOND JUNE 30 SO THAT MOVEABLE PROPERTY COULD REAMIN IN THEM FOR LATER DISPOSITION (SEE REF A).
WYMAN

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